



The Four-year Adjusted Cohort Graduation Rate *A Uniform and Accurate Definition of Graduation Rate¹*

Adjusted Cohort Graduation Rate Definition

An accurate method of calculating graduation rates that is uniform across states is necessary to improve high school accountability. Requiring school officials to have written confirmation before removing a student from a cohort will improve the accuracy of graduation rate calculations. Written confirmation will also ensure that students who have dropped out of school are not counted as transfers and will consequently hold schools accountable for dropouts and others who do not graduate from high school with a regular diploma.

- ✓ The **final federal regulations** define the “four-year adjusted cohort graduation rate” as the number of students who graduate in four years with a regular high school diploma divided by the number of students who entered high school four years earlier (adjusting for transfers in and out, émigrés and deceased students—see below).
 - Students who graduate in four years include students who earn a regular high school diploma at the end of their fourth year; before the end of their fourth year; and, if a state chooses, during a summer session immediately following their fourth year.
 - To remove a student from a cohort, a school or district must confirm in writing that a student has transferred out, emigrated to another country, or is deceased.
 - For students who transfer out of a school, the written confirmation must be official and document that the student has enrolled in another school or in an educational program that culminates in a regular high school diploma.
- ✓ The **four-year adjusted cohort graduation rate must be reported at the high school, district, and State levels in the aggregate as well as disaggregated by subgroups.**

¹ A Uniform, Comparable Graduation Rate October 2008
How the final regulations for Title I hold schools, districts, and states accountable for improving graduation rates
<http://www2.ed.gov/policy/elsec/reg/proposal/uniform-grad-rate.html>

Kentucky Graduation Data:



<http://applications.education.ky.gov/SRC/>

Choose State, District or School → Accountability → Next-Generation Learners (NxGL) → Graduation Rate

2013 Four-Year Adjusted Cohort Graduation Rate Calculation Formula

Number of cohort members who earned a regular high school diploma by the end of the 2012-13 school year

Number of first-time 9th graders in the fall 2009 (starting cohort) plus students who transfer in, minus students who transfer out, emigrate or die during school years 2009-10, 2010-11, 2011-12 and 2012-13

Adjusted Cohort Graduation Rate Accountability for Next Generation Learner

- **Overall Score Reporting for Next-Generation Learners** - Individual student data collected from the assessments and college/career readiness and graduation rates generate a numeric value for each category of next-generation learners -- Achievement, Gap, Growth, College/Career Readiness and Graduation Rate. The value for each category is weighted to create a final overall score for next-generation learners. The following table illustrates the weights.
- The 2010-11 data available in the KDE Report Card in October 2012 does not have specific graduation rate goals. Instead, the graduation rate counts 20% of the total score. For high schools and districts.
- To determine how this is calculated, take the graduation rate and multiply by 20%.
 - For example, if you have a graduation rate of 75%, you would get 15 points toward the total score.
- 2012-13 School Report Card
 - Next-Generation Learners Score: 20% of Adjusted Cohort Rate (School year 2012-13)
 - Graduation Rate Goal- AFGR (School year 2011-12)

- 2013-14 School Report Card
 - Next-Generation Learners Score: 20% of Adjusted Cohort Rate (School year 2012-13)
 - Meets Cohort Graduation Rate Goal

Cohort Determination

The following page shows a flow chart to show how a student becomes a part of a specific cohort and how their final status is determined.

1. Student's first year in grade 9 date determines which cohort the student is in. For example if a student's first time grade 9 date is sometime during the 2009-10 school year, the student is a part of the 2013 cohort and must graduate with a regular high school diploma by July 31, 2013 to be an on-time graduate for that cohort.
2. A report pulls the last enrollment in the student information system (Infinite Campus, IC).
3. If the last enrollment end status is a four year or less graduation (G01, G02), the end date is prior to August 1, the diploma type on the graduation tab is set to regular high school diploma and the diploma date is prior to August 1, the student is moved to the on-time graduation list and in the top part of the ACGR graduation rate formula.
4. If the last enrollment end status is a W20 (withdrawal to homeschool), W21 (withdrawal to private school), W22 (withdrawal to another district with confirmed enrollment or out of state school) or deceased (W08), the student is moved to the verified transfer list and removed from both the top and bottom parts of the ACGR graduation rate formula. This student does not count positively or negatively for the school.
5. If a student does not meet the criteria listed in 3 or 4, the student is marked as a not on-time graduate and is counted in the bottom part of the ACGR graduation rate formula.

Questions

For questions regarding the Adjusted Cohort Graduation Rate calculation, contact the Office of Assessment and Accountability at (502) 564-9853 or via email at kdeassessment@education.ky.gov.

Adjusted Cohort Graduation Report

First enrollment into grade 9 places
student into cohort group

Cohort
Year

Last Enrollment
location

Accountable
School

Last enrollment status determines cohort status

End Status: G01 or G02
(Graduated in four or less
years)

NO

End status: W20, W21 or W22.
Withdrawal to home school (W20),
private (W21) or out of state school
(W22)

NO

Not On Time
Graduate

YES

Regular High School Diploma
listed on Graduation tab

NO

Not On Time
Graduate

YES

Removed from
Cohort. Listed as
verified transfer
for last enrollment
location.

YES

On-Time
Graduate